



By the King.

A Proclamation concerning the abuse of His
Majesties Royall Prerogative, in the levying of Debts.



Hereas by Our Prerogative Royall, and by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realm, we have just right to have Our Debts levied in a more ample and speedy way then any the Debts of Our Subjects, which Priviledge hath time out of minde been used and approbed of in all Our Courts of Justice, and which we were ever, and are resolved to uphold and maintain; But Our intention never was to communicate the same to the oppression of Our loving Subjects: Having by sundry complaints of divers Our loving Subjects in Our Courts of Justice been informed, that divers and sundry persons having of late time gotten to be either Farmours or interested in Our Farms, or Receivers, Collectors, Balliffs, or their Deputies, of some part of Our Revenue, have by colour thereof made use of Our Prerogative, to the great oppression and wrong of Our Subjects, by divers indirect and unjustifiable courses: And that sundry others who are neither Our Farmours, Collectors, nor Receivers, nor otherwise justly indebted to Us, have sometimes without the privitie, and sometimes by the connivence and assistance of Our Farmours and Receivers, and some Ministers or Clerks in Our Courts of Revenue and others, made Bonds or other Assurances unto Us, or unto other Our Officers or Ministers, as if they were really Our Debtors; And under colour thereof have sued for their Debts in Our Name, to the abuse of Our Subjects: And sometimes also persons who have been fined in Our Courts of Star-Chamber, High-Commission, and other Courts in some mulcts or sums, have unduly made use thereof for the recovering of their own Debts: And divers others have by sundry crafty and indirect courses abused Our said just Prerogative, to the

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great oppression of Our Subjects, contrary to Our gracious pleasure and royall intention, and without Our knowledge, notwithstanding former complaints in Parliament, and the princely care of Our late Royall Father of blessed memory, and Our self to provide for the suppression of these and the like evils, all which have been eluded and made ineffectuall by the subtil practises of sundry persons for their own private lucre and gain.

We therefore out of Our gracious affection to Our Subjects, being sensible of the great presumption of such offenders offered to Us in abusing Our Royall prerogative, and under colour thereof wronging and oppressing Our Subjects, And graciously resolving with Our self, not onely to prevent all such abuses for the future, but to bring the offenders to condigne and exemplary punishment, whereby others may be deterred from the like evil courses, and Our oppressed Subjects have satisfaction for the wrongs done unto them, Do by the advice of Our Privie Councell hereby declare Our Royall will and pleasure to be, And do straitly charge and command, That none of Our Farmours, Receivers, Bailiffes, Accountants, or other Ministers of Our Revenue, or their or any of their deputies, or any other person whatsoever, do hereafter presume to put in practise any of the said or the like indirect and unwarrantable courses, upon pain of Our high and heavy displeasure, and to be proceeded against and punished in an exemplary way of Justice for the contempt of Our Royall Commands herein, and for their great presumption in so abusing Our just and Royall prerogative. Of which Our Royall will and pleasure and gracious intention to Our loving Subjects, we hereby command Our Barons of Our Court of Exchequer, and all other the Judges, Officers, and Ministers whatsoever, of Our severall Courts of Justice to take notice. And to the end and purpose that such of Our loving Subjects as have been any wayes troubled, molested, oppressed, or damaged, by reason of such or any the like abuses, under colour or pretext of Our said prerogative, or have been hindered in recovering such Debts as were due unto them, may receive just satisfaction and reparation for the wrongs by them any way sustained; And that all such persons as have offended, as aforesaid, may have condigne and exemplary punishment, we are graciously pleased that any of Our loving Subjects grieved, may freely addresse their Complaints to Our Privie Councell, where they shall be heard, and such order therein taken for their relief as shall be agreeable to Justice and equitie.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the thirtieth day of March, in the sixteenth
yeer of Our Reign.

God save the King.

Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, Printer
to the Kings most excellent Majesty : And by the
Assignes of JOHN BILL. 1640.

